

\$2.50

# WA Bush Poets & Yarn Spinners



## Newsletter : December 2001

### Heat 2 Wireless Hill Challenge 2002

Friday, 7 December 2001

At the Raffles Hotel (Upstairs in The River Room)  
at 7:30pm

#### Novice Others' Poetry

Barry Higgins  
Arthur Leggett  
Bill Mather-Brown  
Peter Nettleton  
David Sears

Illiterate Stockman - Syd Hopkinson  
Father Riley's Horse - Paterson  
Rio Grande - Paterson  
Bushit Artist's Club - Graeme Jenkins  
The Inside Story - Charlee Marshall

#### Novice Own Poetry

Brad Hilder  
Syd Hopkinson  
Kerry Lee  
Bill Mather-Brown  
Peter Nettleton  
Beth Scott  
David Sears

Fair Dinkum  
Real Bush Tucker  
Gate with no fence  
Our Australia  
Kangaroo Shootin' & Dreamin'  
Hen's Night Out (after interval)  
Mixed Emotions

#### Open Others' Poetry

Rusty Christensen  
Rod Lee

Broome Dreaming - Bob Magor  
Redundant - Coleen McLaughlan

#### Open Own Poetry

Geoff Bebb  
Trish Mathews

Railway 1990  
Mr Lassiter has Something to Smile About

#### Open Yarn Spinners

Leigh Matthews  
Peter Nettleton

## Lorelie's Letters



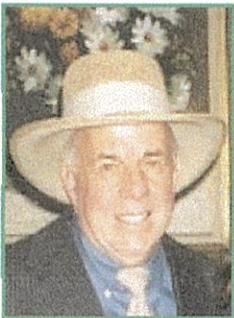
Summer is here and much is happening.. Our second heat on 7<sup>th</sup> December promises to be just as impressive as the first heat. I am sure you were all enthused by the high standard of performances last month. The winners will then have until 26<sup>th</sup> January to polish their items. Two extra trophies are being made to cover all five categories.

Over 100 members and friends attended the 'sleep-over' event at Rod and Kerry Lee's property on 24<sup>th</sup> November. It was an outstanding success. It is particularly pleasing to see members taking the initiative and staging an opportunity for poets, yarn spinners and musicians to gather for the enjoyment of all. Many thanks to Kerry and Rod.

Arrangements for our big championship day at Wireless Hill on 26<sup>th</sup> January are proceeding well. Rotary Clubs will be serving hot breakfasts and together we are organising music and entertainments for the morning and of course, the Championships in the afternoon. Once again we are indebted to the Melville City Council for generously providing the marquee and chairs for our use after their Naturalisation Ceremony at 10.30. Reserve the day in your diary for a big Aussie Day Out. You can even stay on to watch the Fireworks in the evening from that vantage point.

The committee is planning special events at new and different venues throughout 2002 so we have a lot to look forward to. A very happy and safe Christmas to you all.

**Lorelie.**



G'Day everyone,

What a busy period it has been for the Association. Those who were fortunate enough to attend either the First Heat at the Raffles, or the Evening at Kerry and Rod Lee's place, can only be astounded at the really high standard of presentation exhibited by the Association's able performers. Such was the high standard of the Heat entries, the past champion performers have been "put on notice", that the up and coming newer members have improved enormously over the past year.

As the co-ordinator of Heat 2, I am delighted with the quality of the entries, which will at least equal if not exceed the quality of Heat 1. So be there nice and early at the Raffles on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December to reserve a good seat – then settle back for some really great entertainment.

We have some really great news for you all. The redoubtable Keith 'Cobber' Lethbridge will be joining us on Australia Day at Wireless Hill, not as a finalist but as a guest performer. (Rumours that the Association sent him a carton of Thongs, so he could walk down from Halls Creek, are slightly exaggerated.) We will all look forward to hearing our old pal strutting his stuff in our midst.

More great news!! The Committee has secured the services of Australia's premiere poet, Milton Taylor, who will be travelling from the East Coast to join us in March 2002, for a special event, which will be held as part of the Festival of Melville. Exact dates will be confirmed by the time you get the January Newsletter. The event will be staged in the same kind of format as the Bob Magor, night so watch this space for more details.

Good luck to all the entrants in Heat 2. And Poets, don't forget to get your written entries to me by Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2001 for the Open Written Competition.

**Cheers Geoff Bebb**

Wireless Hill Challenge 2002 - Heat 1

Our Judges were **Bill McAtee, Gary Crerie and Val Mazalevskis**. Lorelie Tacoma was our timekeeper. Geoff Bebb our compere. The standard was so high this year that I'm glad it was *them* not me, the *heat* was definitely on the judges. The audience of about 80, has never received better value for money. As many of the yarns and poems were known to the audience, the *crème de la crème* in poetry, I couldn't possibly comment on them, (very cowardly, I know), thus the cartoon below. You'll have to wait for the judges for final comments after the next heat. I hope that you can recognize these poems from my caricatures.

Cheers, Michelle



Our brave contestants were: Geoff Bebb, Constance Herbert, Ron Ingham, Kerry Lee, Rod Lee, Leigh Matthews, Chris Sadler, Charles Robert Stace and Trish Matthews. John Hayes provided impromptu additions.

## Year Of the Outback 2002

The WABP&YSA has registered with the Year of the Outback 2002 organisers to take part in the Australia wide celebrations. The association will have our Wireless Hill 2002 competitions publicised on its website. We may seek to put other events on as they arise during the year.

To add to that note:- After being "discovered" at the Royal Show by the Year of the Outback organisers, **Rusty Christensen**, Has been appointed as an **Ambassador of the Year of the Outback 2002**, to promote and encourage people to participate in any activities that may promote the celebrations throughout the year.

He is amongst other such illustrious company as the immortal Slim Dusty, John Williamson (guitarist and song writer), Ted Eagan (poet) and various politicians such as Tim Fischer, Bob Hawke and Peter Beatty. Rusty started the ball rolling by reciting poetry at Kalbarri last weekend. I'm sure he'll spread the word widely and wonderfully with his usual wit and gift of the gab, which has attracted so many people to our gatherings. All the best, Rusty.

We can all add to this 'spreading of the word' in our own communities as well. I know that in my own family, poetry has added a new dimension to our family gatherings. My son, who hasn't written since High School, has resurrected his poetry writing and is making a shared book with a Swiss friend on an Aussie holiday. This is as a direct result of sharing our adventures into poetry (via email) to him in Victoria.

## News from Brendon Parker in the USA

For any new members who have just joined, Brendon is a long time member of our association. He was enticed, out of retirement, to promote a real Aussie product (The great Aussie barbie), to the American heathen "grill" believers. He and his family have had a very exciting year in Missouri. This great 'missionary' is now on his way home and will be attending our sermon on the mount... *sorry*, Wireless Hill, in January. Halleluja ! and welcome home soon, Brendon. We're glad you didn't get converted to these "grill" people.

After all this zealous propliticising of poetry , I feel like I'm in church.

Here is an excerpt from his latest email:

Hey! great to get your note Michelle and honored to be remembered. Thanks so much for making sure the newsletter is sent to us in Missouri.. we save it and all gather for the "reading" to replenish our Normal. At this stage I am feeling a bit like the monkey who ran round with a piece of steak on his head .... he thought he was a grilla.

I sent Deborah to New York with her brother (over from Aust) for her birthday and so enclose the photo of her on top of the World Trade Center taken 24 August.

Sunshine BBQ grills cook well over here but need to be demonstrated, they have long since forgotten how to cook on the hot plate, Americans cook inside a roll down cover on the grill.....more roasting than BBQ often.

So one late afternoon at Baltimore I was demonstrating out side a huge Home Depot store with a group of prospective BBQ demonstrators. A cheery, cheeky Afro American gave me a bit of repartee and later ,nicked a bratwurst sausage.... not a button off my shirt I was going to give them away anyway and it was all part of the show.....the very reason they were there is that Americans find them irresistible. But the Home Depot bloke outside on his smoko got stropopy and demanded our man vacate. Next thing there are words, Loud words .....so as you do here, I did a quick check for Hand guns and Knives....satisfied there were none settled down to enjoy the show, as they circled one another for a title fight.....remarking to the Home Depot staff and the girl in the soda stall "This is the last time I serve Kangaroo meat! It makes the boys far too frisky "They think .... We are the last frontier!!!!

Well as the frog said "Time's fun when your having flys"

I have seen enough of rampant materialism to do me a lifetime and look forward to some simple camping and swimming down at Denmark WA to cleanse the soul ,after Christmas

Then the official start to our year Wireless Station Hill. Looking fwd to seeing you and till then Christmas greetings to yo all.

Brendan

### WABP&YSA Events 2001

Our Association highlights for 2001 have certainly been the Paterson / Lawson and Bob Magor nights as well as visits to Chapel Farm Café /restaurant and Marybrook Winery down south. As we wind up the year with our Wireless Hill Championships:-

Break- a- leg one and all.



Thanks to all our poets and organisers of these events. May you all remain as dynamic and interested in 2002 and beyond.  
Cheers Michelle

Dear Editor,

I've been a bit quiet lately, so I thought it was about time I started thumping the drum again about one of my favourite issues. I have also had the question posed to me recently by several non-members, viz: "What is Bush Poetry and what is not?".

In my humble opinion, Bush Poetry is a living and developing art form, which owes its origins to our colonial forebears. I need not mention any names - most of them are household words today - or any particular period in our history. Each and every bush poem has to be able to trace its pedigree back to their influence.

Bush Poetry doesn't have to be neat and technically correct, nor does it have to be funny. It can cover the full range of moods and emotions, geographic locations and subject matter - but it does have to have Australian identity and authenticity, so that the audience, whoever they might be, can engage with it and add to its artistic growth.

I do not think for example that a poem about a slob of a husband who loafs on a couch with a tinny on his belly really fits the bill. After all, Homer Simpson already has that ground covered. Nor do I think cute stories about ones kids or sad ones about an old family pet qualify, unless the story can be taken beyond the subjective into relevant objective reality.

While I think it is a legitimate aspect of showmanship for a performer to tell jokes between poems (after all, serious musical artists do it to give their audience some relief between pieces), I do not regard it as acceptable to take an old gag, stretch it out, set it in verse and call it 'Bush Poetry'. Yet even some of our most revered contemporaries are guilty of that.

In conclusion, while I do feel I have some claim to authority on this issue, I certainly don't purport to be the only one or to be infallible. By all means, take a shot. As we enter into the annual 'Challenge' season however, I would call upon both contestants and judges to give greater consideration to this issue so that our art form can continue to grow and flourish.

Peter (Stinger) Nettleton

### APPLICATION FOR WRITTEN POETRY COMPETITION AUSTRALIA DAY 2002

I \_\_\_\_\_ wish to enter the works shown below, in the Open Written Poetry Competition for the Australia Day Challenge 2002.

#### Works Submitted

	Title of Poem
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

I agree to be bound by the general rules of this competition. If one of my entries is chosen as the winner, I am prepared to recite the poem at the Australia Day Challenge 2002.

I hereby certify that the above works are my own composition and have never been entered in any other competition nor published for profit prior to this submission.

I agree that the judge's decision is final. My entries are attached to this Form

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

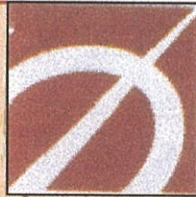
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please Return to Geoff Bebb  
Unit 1, 8 Hill St  
South Perth WA 6151  
by 21<sup>st</sup> December 2001

## Bowman Furniture Industries P/L

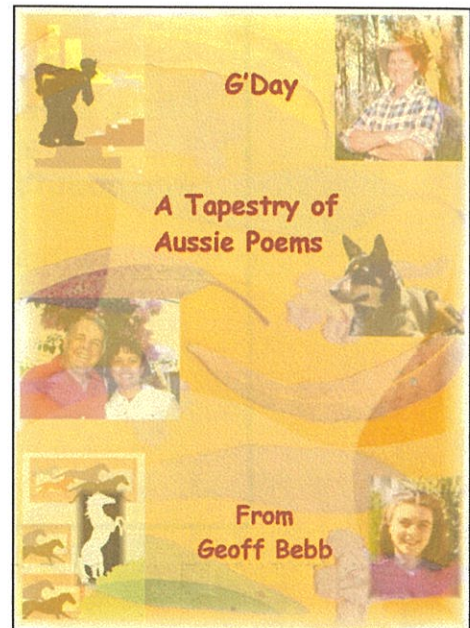


**158 Maddington Rd  
Maddington WA 6109**

**Ph: 9493 4333**

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**Email: daverodkerry@bigpond.com**

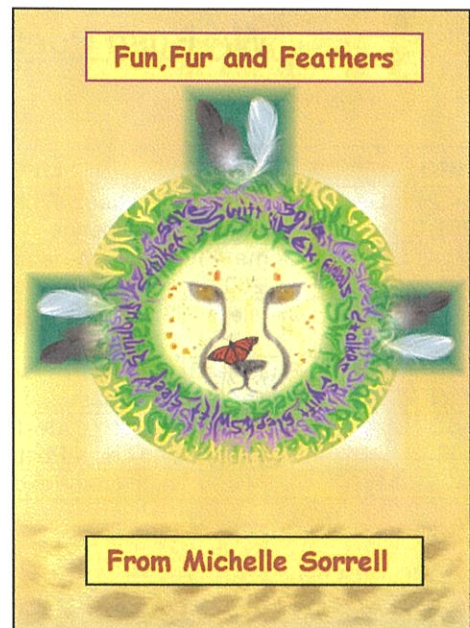


### This month's advertisers are:

**Rod and Kerry Lee**, who would like to offer you quality furniture for your home or holiday cottage. Perhaps a new entertainment unit for Christmas is on your mind?

**Michelle Sorrell**, who has published her very colourful book "Fun Fur and Feathers". The book features her Art and Poetry, in a perfect marriage between the two art forms. An excellent Christmas Gift for young and old alike.

**Geoff Bebb**, who has published a new full-colour Poetry Book "G'Day a Tapestry of Aussie Poems". This book contains all the poems you've heard Geoff recite at CAY's and is also a great Christmas present for lovers of Australian Poetry.



### Committee Contacts Year 2001 – 2002

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**The Members of the Editorial Sub-Committee  
Would like to thank all those,  
who contributed to this Edition of The Newsletter.**

**Without their support and enthusiasm,  
a Newsletter like this would not be possible.**

**Many Thanks**

**Geoff Bebb - Editor**

## WA Bush Poets and Yarn Spinners Association Inc

### Coming Events

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Co-ordinator</b>
Frid 21st Dec 2001	Final entries for adult Written Competition 2002 Wireless Hill Challenge	<b>Geoff Bebb</b> – Competition Judge 9367 4963
Frid 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2002	Come All Ye – Come and join us for our first CAY for 2002 – with a “Fun Theme”	<b>To Be Advised</b>
Sat. 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2002	Wireless Hill Challenge	<b>Geoff Bebb</b> 9367 4963
Frid 15 <sup>th</sup> ?? March 2002	Special Come All Ye Meeting Featuring Milton Taylor fro East Coast and supporting Local Poets	<b>Rod Lee</b> 9397 0409
Frid 3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2002	Special Come All Ye Meeting Featuring Peter Capp and supporting Local Poets	<b>Barry Higgins</b>
Frid 5 <sup>th</sup> July	AGM and Traditional Poetry Night	<b>To Be Advised</b>

### Return Address

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